

NCTE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Standing Committee: Certification

Date: October 7, 2011

Location: Center for People in Need

The meeting was called to order at 12:52 pm by Mark Adler.

Secretary: Please take attendance and indicate any absences, alternates, or guests.

District	Name	Present/Absent	Designated Alternate Member Present	Guest
8	Adler, M.	Present		
5	Bork, R.	Present		
2	Casey, D.	Present		
7	Coe, T.	Present		
1	Cunningham-White, D	Present		
3	Freese, D.	Present		
2	Jensen, S.	Absent		
3	Lenihan, M.	Present		
5	Marymee, F.	Present		
1	Peters, K.	Present		
3	Rohwer, K.	Present		
1	Schlieder, M.	Present		
8	Schnabel, B.	Present		
	Schweiger, B.	Present		
1	Stake, S.	Present		
3	Vlach, J.	Absent		
1	Wandzilak, T.	Absent		
5	Wheeler, K.	Present		
	Arth, Al	Present		
	Kathy Huff	Present		
	Pat Rippe	Present	PSC	
	Lawayne Zeller	Present	CSM	

Business Conducted:

1. Introductions
2. Sign Up Sheets were distributed.
 - a. Mathematics Ad Hoc Committee—February 16 or 17 OR February 23 or 24, 2012
 - b. Folio Reviews (Chadron State, Concordia University, NE Wesleyan University)—Summer, 2012

3. Discussion regarding proposed endorsements ready for final approval at Second General Session:

- a. Principal. No discussion/action.
- b. Special Education: School Psychologist. No discussion/action.

Discussion regarding proposed endorsements ready for First and Second Hearings:

- c. Superintendent. A member who was part of the NCSA mentor program feels that the changes would only be an enhancement that would help new Superintendents. If they don't have help, they can become isolated. Budgets are especially difficult. Agreement followed that help is essential. There was a consensus to add the word "Nebraska" before the words "Institution".
- d. Science (field), Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space, Physics
(Ad Hoc Committee recommendation—remove Physical Science field)
There is a concern about the increase in hours and that it may be difficult to get the hours completed. How to balance the requirement for knowledge and the time allotted. Discussion followed about the requirement of a four-year program. Recruiting teachers is different depending on the district and their requirements. Small districts may need a teacher that can teach all classes where larger districts may need specialist. The Clearing Endorsements document may need to reflect the needs of the small district. There should be a balance at all levels. Adding hours allow more in depth coverage the subject matter. Teacher with field endorsements are highly desired because they can teach in many areas. Many other states have a Model where teachers may get an initial certificate, but must complete professional development in order to renew. That may cause difficulty in retaining teachers. There was a concern expressed about the shortage of science teachers. Other states (like Wyoming) seem to prefer to hire people with a subject endorsement as opposed to a field endorsement. Nebraska seems to lean to preferring the field endorsement. There is a consensus to drop the words "evenly distributed" from 006.10D, 006.18D, 006.13D, 006.45D. Why is Physical Sciences completely gone?
- e. Language Arts (field), English, Speech, Theatre, Reading and Writing, Reading Specialist
(Ad Hoc Committee recommendation—remove Speech and Theatre field and Journalism and Mass Communications subject)
Motion to pull Language Arts until the language can be clarified and cleaned up (motion by Diana Casey, seconded by Deb Freese). Discussion. Questions—Is this a road we want to go down where any person can teach any class? Clearing Endorsements Document questions. Clarification of hour requirements (clean up language to reflect other endorsements). Is the teacher being prepared to meet the NE Standards requirements. For example, students are required to learn Shakespeare but the teachers are not required to have any training about

Shakespeare. Are the Standards we hold students reflected in what we expect teachers to do? Why was Journalism and Mass Communication moved? There were not enough teachers getting the endorsement and most schools do not hire someone with just that endorsement. UNO does not offer Journalism because there are no job offers. It is a matter of who takes the course and who is hired. What classes qualify? Best practices may not always drive a district's decision. Some districts may have better mentoring support for teachers who may not be fully versed in a subject. Administrators need to decide who to hire, which should be a good teacher, then decide how to help that person gain the appropriate endorsement in a reasonable time period. Not all schools look the same. Do we need to make a statement as a committee that if teachers come out of training in the first year that it is incumbent on districts to be supportive of the teachers they hire?

- f. Special Education Generalist. Talking points (rationale) was distributed. As a committee, the questions at hand are:
 - i. Question of the hour requirements. It should be written more clearly. For example, there is a total of 54 hours, 24 of which are ... (006.63D1).
 - ii. Adding a middle school endorsement (4-9). Caseload might change and a PK-9 is needed, especially in smaller schools.
 - iii. Does PK mean age 3? We are mandated at birth if they are identified. The district is obligated to serve those students. What about birth-age 21?
 - iv. Concern that a school may need to use a generalist for a student or situation that they are not prepared to work. Some special circumstances may require some specialized training and who will provide that training?
 - v. There is a long waiting list for ESU services.
 - vi. What part of the 24 credit hours under 006.63D1 are covered in all General Education courses?
 - vii. If you go in as a Generalist, there will be less foundational skills than someone who has a specific endorsement.
4. Other business concerning Certification Committee. What constitutes 2 years of experience? Discussion followed about what qualifies and highly qualified and experience for administrators. The proposal about Provisional endorsements will ensure that teachers keep moving forward to get an endorsement. There are teachers who constantly renew a provisional without taking any classes. Some people are hired with the intent to get a job, not to teach in a certain position. New hires under a provisional must be held to the expectations. A concern was voiced about Middle School endorsements. Discussion followed, with specific information about Rule 10. Consensus that Middle School endorsements are important.

5. Action.

- a. Add the word "Nebraska" before the words "Institution" in the Superintendent Endorsement (005.03D2).
- b. Drop the words "evenly distributed" from Science 006.10D, 006.18D, 006.13D, 006.45D.
- c. Why is Physical Science completely gone?
- d. The committee would like to continue to review Language Arts until questions can be answered and language clarified/cleaned.
- e. How does the Language Arts/English relate to the Clearing Endorsements Document?
- f. Are the Standards we hold students reflected in what we expect of teachers in Language Arts/English (related to NeSA)?
- g. The committee would like to continue to review Special Education Generalist until questions can be answered and language clarified/cleaned.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m..

Standing Committee Recommendations for presentation to Full Council:

Minutes submitted by: Diana Casey.